

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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R 251245Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3726

SECDEF

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

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S E C R E T USNATO 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MISSION COMMENTS ON THE NPG DRAFT STUDY ON WARSAW  
PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE

REF: USNATO 0029

BEGIN SUMMARY: REFTEL REQUESTS WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE  
SECOND DRAFT OF THE NPG STUDY OF WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND  
DOCTRINE (POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE) CIRCULATED BY  
NETHERLANDS ON 2 JANUARY 1974. MISSION COMMENTS BELOW ARE  
FOR USE BY WASHINGTON IN PREPARING US COMMENTS ON THE  
STUDY. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, US COMMENTS SHOULD BE  
PROVIDED TO MISSION IN TIME FOR CIRULATING TO NETHERLANDS  
AND OTHER STUDY PARTICIPANTS BY 1 FEBRUARY 1974.

END SUMMARY.

GENERAL COMMENTS

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1. WE FIND THE STUDY'S SECOND DRAFT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, ALTHOUGH  
IT IS LONG AND CONTAINS SOME POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL ANALYSIS,  
E.G., PARAS. 76-90. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE THE US CAN  
ACCEPT ITS CONCLUSIONS THAT THERE ARE A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIONS

OPEN TO THE WARSAW PACT IN A CONFLICT AND NATO PLANNING MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO MEET VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES INVOLVING USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ONE COULD MAKE NUMEROUS EDITORIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DRAFT; HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON THESE SINCE THEY ARE OBVIOUS, AND CAN BE HANDLED DURING THE STUDY GROUP'S DISCUSSIONS 12-13 FEBRUARY.

2. DUTCH REP ON STUDY HAS ASKED WHETHER US THOUGHT STUDY GROUP SHOULD PREPARE COVER REPORT SUMMARIZING STUDY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS LENGTH. ALTERNATIVELY, STUDY GROUP COULD REFER, IN TRANS ITTAL LETTER, TO CONCLUDING CHAPTER (GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS) AND SUMMARIES IN PARAS 52, 53, 75, 80, AND 90. WE PREFER LATTER ALTERNATIVE SINCE NPG PERM REPS WILL PREPARE A COVERING REPORT, AND US WILL PREPARE ITS OWN SUMMARIES FOR NPG MINISTERIAL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

A. PARA. 52, SECOND SENTENCE: REVISE TO READ "...WESTERN DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALSO TENDED TO EMPHASIZE ALLEGED SOVIET DEFICIENCIES SUCH AS BACKWARDNESS IN TECHNOLOGY AND UNSOPHISTICATED STRATEGIC THINKING."

B. PARA. 71, FIRST SENTENCE: RECOMMEND REVISE TO READ "ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT FIND EVIDENCE IN WARSAW PACT WRITINGS OF CONCERNS TO MINIMIZE RISKS OF ESCALATION AND UNDUE COLLATERAL DAMAGE, WARSAW PACT AND NATO MILITARY DOCTRINES CONCERNING THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR MILITARY EFFECT HAVE SOME SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS." SECOND SENTENCE: WE WOULD DELETE LATTER PART OF SENTENCE BEGINNING WITH, "IN TERMS OF TACTICS..."

C. PARA. 72: REQUEST WASHINGTON REVIEW THIS PARAGRAPH TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WE CAN SAY ABOUT WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES TO EXERCISE POLITICAL CONTROL OVER LIMITED NUCLEAR OPERATIONS.

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D. PARA. 73, FOURTH SENTENCE: RECOMMEND REVISE TO READ, "ALTHOUGH THE NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS AT THEIR DISPOSAL, WE DO NOT HAVE EVIDENCE THAT ARRANGEMENTS EXIST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPON SUPPORT IN CASE OF WAR WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF NATO." FIFTH SENTENCE: RECOMMEND THIS SENTENCE BE CLARIFIED OR DELETED.

E. PARA. 80: ADD FOLLOWING PHRASE TO SENTENCE, "...ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, OR SOVIET LEADERS BECAME CONVINCED THAT NATO WAS ABOUT TO INITIATE WIDE-SCALE STRIKES AND THEREFORE PRE-EMPTIVE USE BY THE WARSAW PACT SEEMED THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION AVAILABLE."

F. PARA. 82: REVISE PHRASE IN (B.) TO READ: "FLIGHT ON,

RELYING PRIMARILY ON THE WEIGHT OF THE CONVENTIAONAL FORCES,  
BUT USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN VERY SMALL NUMBERS TO SHOW  
DETERMINATION WHILE SEEKING TO MINIMIZE RISKS OF ESCALATION;"

G. PARA. 85, FIRST SENTENCE: REPLACE PHARASE "--ESSENTIAL FOR  
POLITICAL PURPOSES--," WITH "-- ESSENTIALLY TO SHOW DETERMI-  
NATION WHILE SEEKING TO LIMIT RISKS OF ESCALATION--."

H. PARA. 90: ADD FOLLOWING PHRASE TO ARGUMENT UNDER (A.):  
"...LARGE NUMBER OF STRIKES, EXCEPT IN A SITUATION IN WHICH  
SOVIET LEADERS BECAME CONVINCED THAT NATO WAS ABOUT TO  
INITIATE WIDES-SCALE STRIKES AND THEREFORE PREEMPTIVE USE  
BY THE WARSAW PACT SEEMED THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION  
AVAILABLE."

I. PARA. 94, FOURTH SENTENCE: REVISE TO READ "...AGAINST  
THE BACKGROUND OF THE GENERAL POLITICO-MILITARY AND OPERA-  
TIONAL SITUATION EXISTING AT THE TIME."

J. PARA 100: RECOMMEND ADD A THIRD THEME IN THE THIRD  
SENTENCE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "AND THIRD A CONSISTENT OBJEC-  
TIVE OF ADVANCING THE POWER POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION."

K. PARA. 105, SUB-SENTENCE (C): REPLACE PHRASE "TO MAKE A  
POLITICAL POINT, " WITH " ...TO SHOW DETERMINATION WHILE  
SEEKING TO LIMIT RISK OF ESCALATION."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 JUN 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATO00400  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS-12/31/82  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740173/abbrysvl.tel  
**Line Count:** 141  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USNATO 0029  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <26-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MISSION COMMENTS ON THE NPG DRAFT STUDY ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
USNMR SHAPE  
SACLANT  
CINCLANT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

